

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /080 W
-----107425 150951Z /14

R 150933Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3128

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PBOR MO SP
SUBJECT: THE MOROCCAN OPTIC ON THE ENCLAVE/GIBRALTAR LINKAGE

REF: (A) MADRID 6766, (B) RABAT 3627

1. WE DO NOT ENTIRELY SHARE RUPEREZ' OBSERVATION THAT MOROCCO HAS RECENTLY BEGUN TO RESURRECT CEUTA AND MELILLA AS LIVE TOPICS. THERE HAS BEEN NO REALLY NOTEWORTHY VARIATION IN THE MOROCCAN LINE, OFFICIALLY OR SEMI-OFFICIALLY, SINCE KING HASSAN PUT THE ISSUE ON THE BACK BURNER IN 1975 AND 1976 PRESS CONFERENCES BY CALMLY LINKING THE RETURN OF THE ENCLAVES TO RESOLUTION OF THE GIBRALTAR QUESTION. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT THE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS OCCASIONALLY SEIZED ON THE ISSUE -- USUALLY IN A MOMENT OF PIQUE OVER SAHARA-RELATED STATEMENTS IN THE SPANISH PRESS OR BY LEFTIST SPANISH POLITICIANS. THE ONE INCIDENT OF THE ISSUE ARISING IN THE SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS (REFTEL B) WAS OF MARGINAL SIGNIFICANCE, AS WE JUDGED AT THE TIME.

2. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THE TEMPTATION AMONG THE OPPOSITION TO RAISE THE ISSUE, AND ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT IT WILL REOCCUR IN COMING WEEKS AS THE SPANISH CORTES DEBATES THE SAHARA AND MOROCCO'S OWN NEW PARLIAMENT SITS NEXT MONTH. THE KEY, HOWEVER, IS WHAT THE GOM DOES. WHILE THE LEVER IS ALWAYS

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AVAILABLE AND THREATS OF USING IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT IF IRRITANTS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WERE TO ACCRUE, WE QUESTION WHETHER THE KING WOULD GO TO THE MAT ON AN ISSUE WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY WEAKEN THE POSITION OF HIS ROYAL COUNTERPART TO THE NORTH. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT CANNOT BE RULED OUT, BUT IN OUR VIEW IS UNLIKELY.

3. WE ARE THUS INCLINED TO ATTRIBUTE THE MORE RECENT MILD
RECRUDESCENCE OF ARTICLES ON CEUTA AND MELILLA TO THE
BRITISH-SPANISH EXCHANGES ON GIBRALTAR, AND LITTLE ELSE.
ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNITY RELATIONS, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 15-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977RABAT05109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MADRID 6766, 77 RABAT 3627
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1262440
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE MOROCCAN OPTIC ON THE ENCLAVE/GIBRALTAR LINKAGE
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MO, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e22aa45-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009